

SHINO-BU!



HUH?

THE SPECIAL PROGRAM YOU PARTICIPATED IN LAST MONTH IS ABOUT TO START.

YOU'RE GOING TO WATCH, AREN'T YOU?

the Snowman sofa that turns people into lazy bums



"I WILL TAKE YOU UP ON YOUR OFFER TO VISIT THE MYOJOU SOCIETY."

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, YOU'RE BEING SUCH A DOWNER!

NOT INTERESTED AT ALL? DON'T YOU WANT TO CHECK

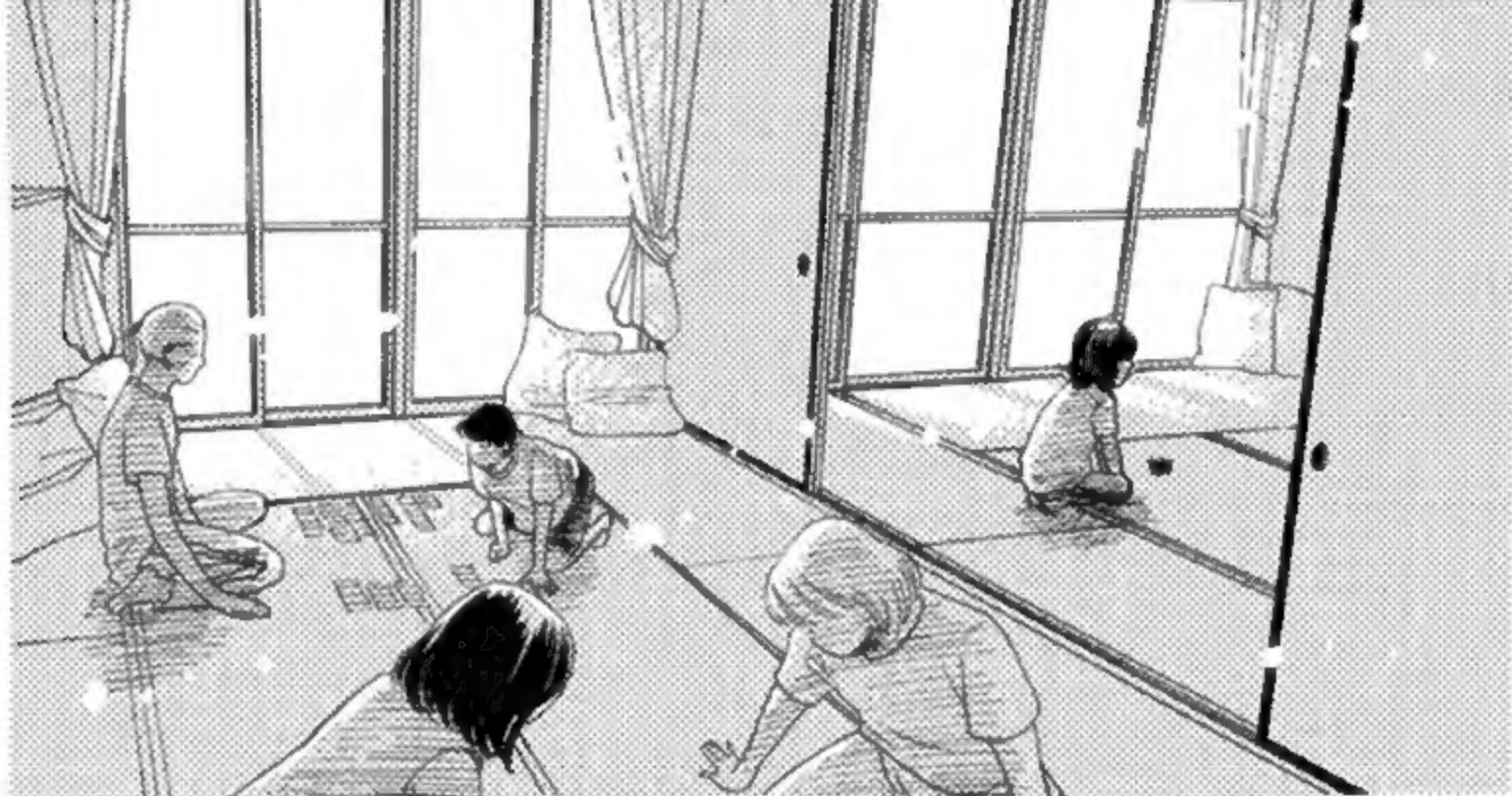
NOT INTERESTED. TOO MUCH OF A BOTHER...

HOW YOU LOOK ON THE SCREEN, HOW YOU VOICE SOUNDS, IF YOUR SMILE NEEDS WORK OR...

AND YOU WERE SO EAGER TO GO TO THE MYOJOU SOCIETY, YET YOU HAVEN'T BEEN THERE EVEN ONCE!

I LET THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT GET THE BETTER OF ME AND ENDED UP THOUGHTLESSLY SAYING THAT.

NO.



2





NEITHER ME
NOR THE
SENSEI HAS
CHANGED.

IT'S
STILL
THE
SAME.

EVEN
NOW.



3



BY THE
WAY...

YOU ARE
WELCOME
ANY TIME
DON'T
FORGET.



I HAVE
PUBLISHED
A BOOK TO
COMMEMORATE
50 YEARS OF
KARITA
HISTORY.

TAKE
A LOOK
WHEN
YOU FEEL
LIKE IT.

OH?
MASHIMA-
KUN! HOW
NICE TO SEE
YOU AGAIN!

HAVE YOU
HAD DINNER
ALREADY?

I CAN MAKE
SOME OYAKODON
FOR YOU RIGHT
AWAY. WILL IT
BE OK WITH
YOU?

MOM,
KEEP
YOUR
VOICE
DOWN!

THOUSAND YEAR
LONG ASPIRATIONS
OF THE SOULS OF
THE POETS WHOSE
WORKS COMPRISE
THE HYAKUNIN
ISSHU.

今日の
Today's

とことん
I want to know all about it

知りたい

競技かるた最高峰の

APPROACHING THE SECRET BEHIND TOP SPEEDS IN COMPETITIVE KAITO

速さの秘密に迫る

COMPETITIVE
KARUTA.

IT IS...

...A
ONE-ON-
ONE
COMBAT
SPORT

FOUGHT ON
THE TATAMI
OVER SOUND
THAT IS
FILLED
WITH



WHILE QUEEN
WAKAMIYA
SHINOBU
WON HER
THIRD ONE.

THIS YEAR MEIJIN
SUOU HISASHI
TOOK HIS FIFTH
TITLE IN A ROW,

AND IN
THIS SHOW
WE SHALL
REVEAL
THE SECRET
BEHIND THEIR
STRENGTH!

CHIHAYA,
YOU'RE
BEING JUST
AS LOUD
YOURSELF...

THEY REALLY
ARE GOING
TO REVEAL
THE SECRET
BEHIND THEIR
STRENGTH?!

JUST
LIKE
THAT?!

THEY
WILL?!

AND TO
MEASURE
THAT INTERVAL
WITH
PRECISION...

TO FIND THE
EXACT MOMENT
DURING THE
READING OF
A VERSE WHEN
THEY MAKE
A CONCLUSION
ABOUT THE SOUND
THEY HEAR,

IN ORDER
TO EXPLAIN
PLAYERS'
INCREDIBLE
REACTION TIME
WHEN THEY
SEEM TO SWEEP
CARDS EVEN
BEFORE THEY
ARE READ,



7



MAT-
SUGE-
KUN?!

SHIRANAMI
SOCIETY

WHOA,
TAICHI?!

FUKUI NAGUMO
SOCIETY

I'LL BE
DAMNED
IF IT'S NOT
FRIGGIN
MASHIMA!

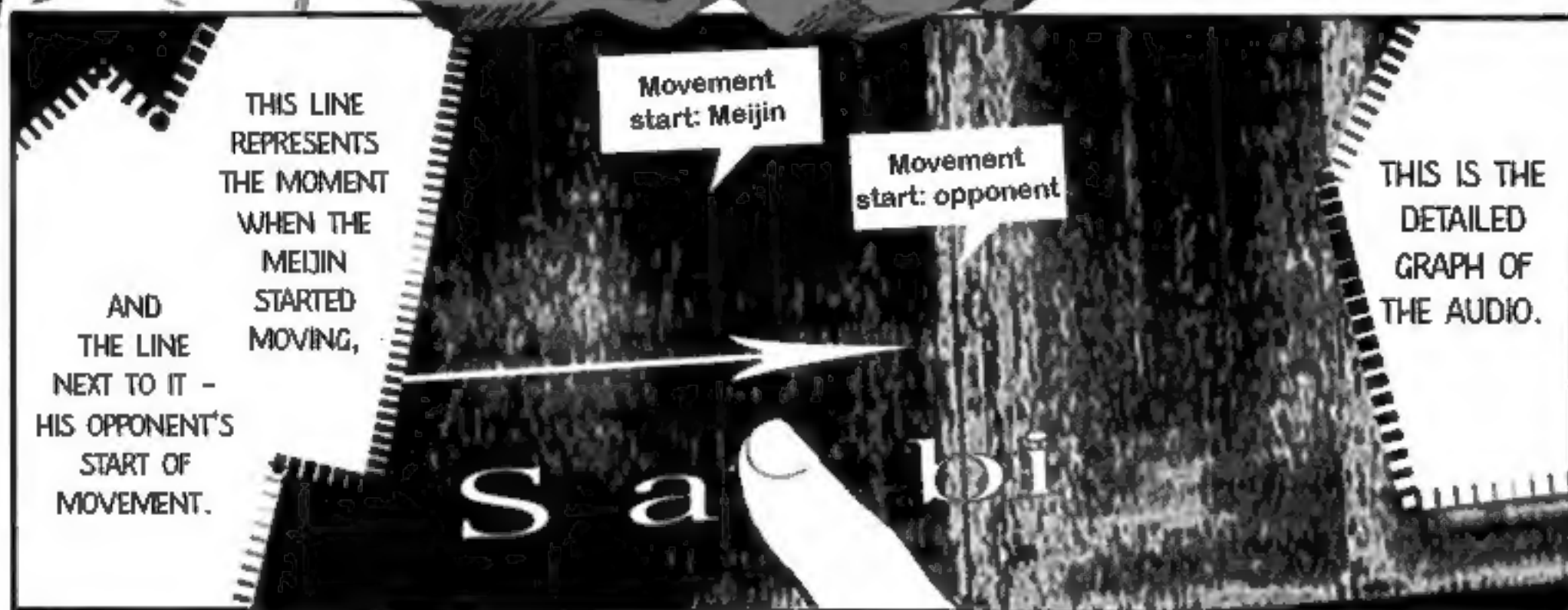
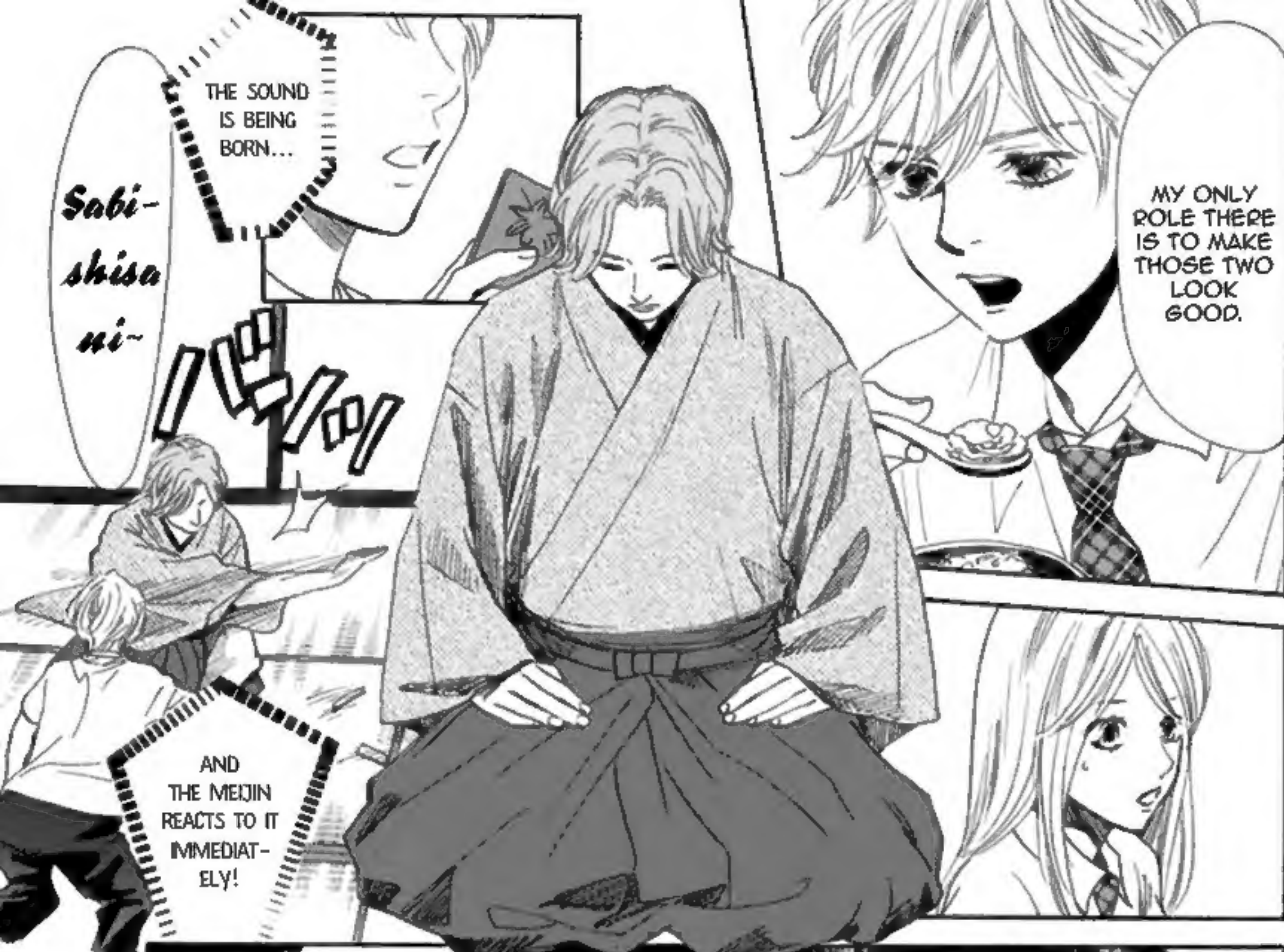
TOUDAI KARUTA
SOCIETY

MA'AM,
YOUR
OYAKODON
IS
DELICIOUS.

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
THERE,
TAICHI~
~~~~~?!  
EEHH~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~?!  
もぐもぐ

EH?!  
SO YOU'VE  
MADE AN  
APPEARANCE  
ON TV, TOO,  
MASHIMA-  
KUN?!

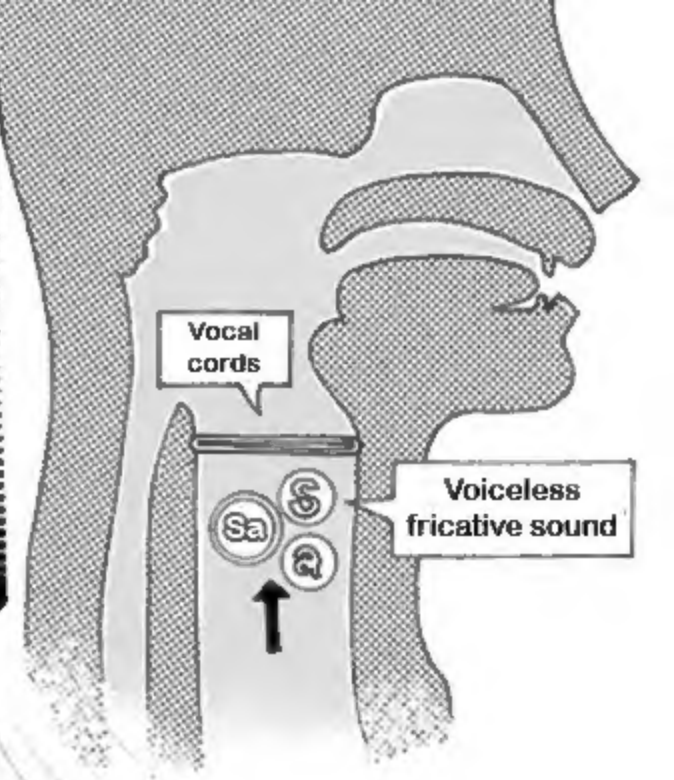
OH MY,  
YOU LOOK  
SO GOOD  
ON TV.  
♡





THE MEIJIN,  
HOWEVER,  
REACTS TO  
THE SOUND  
THAT DOES  
NOT MAKE  
THE VOCAL  
CORDS  
VIBRATE.

WHEN THE A VOWEL  
IS VOICED, THE VOCAL  
CORDS START  
VIBRATING, RESULTING  
IN THE SYLLABLE  
THAT WE HEAR  
AS 'SA'.



Vocal  
cords

Voiceless  
fricative sound



AND THIS FACT  
IS WHAT WE  
CAN SAFELY CALL  
THE FIRST SECRET  
BEHIND  
THE MEIJIN'S  
ASTOUNDING  
SPEED.

OUR TEST  
OF HIS HEARING  
REVEALED THAT  
HIS SENSITIVITY  
TO HIGH-PITCHED  
SOUNDS AND  
LOW TONES  
IS FAR  
ABOVE  
AVERAGE.



AND MY  
ENVIRON-  
MENT  
REFINED  
IT.



I  
WAS  
BORN  
WITH  
IT...

MEIJIN,  
TELL US  
HOW DID  
YOU OBTAIN  
SUCH AN  
ABILITY?

# ちはやふる

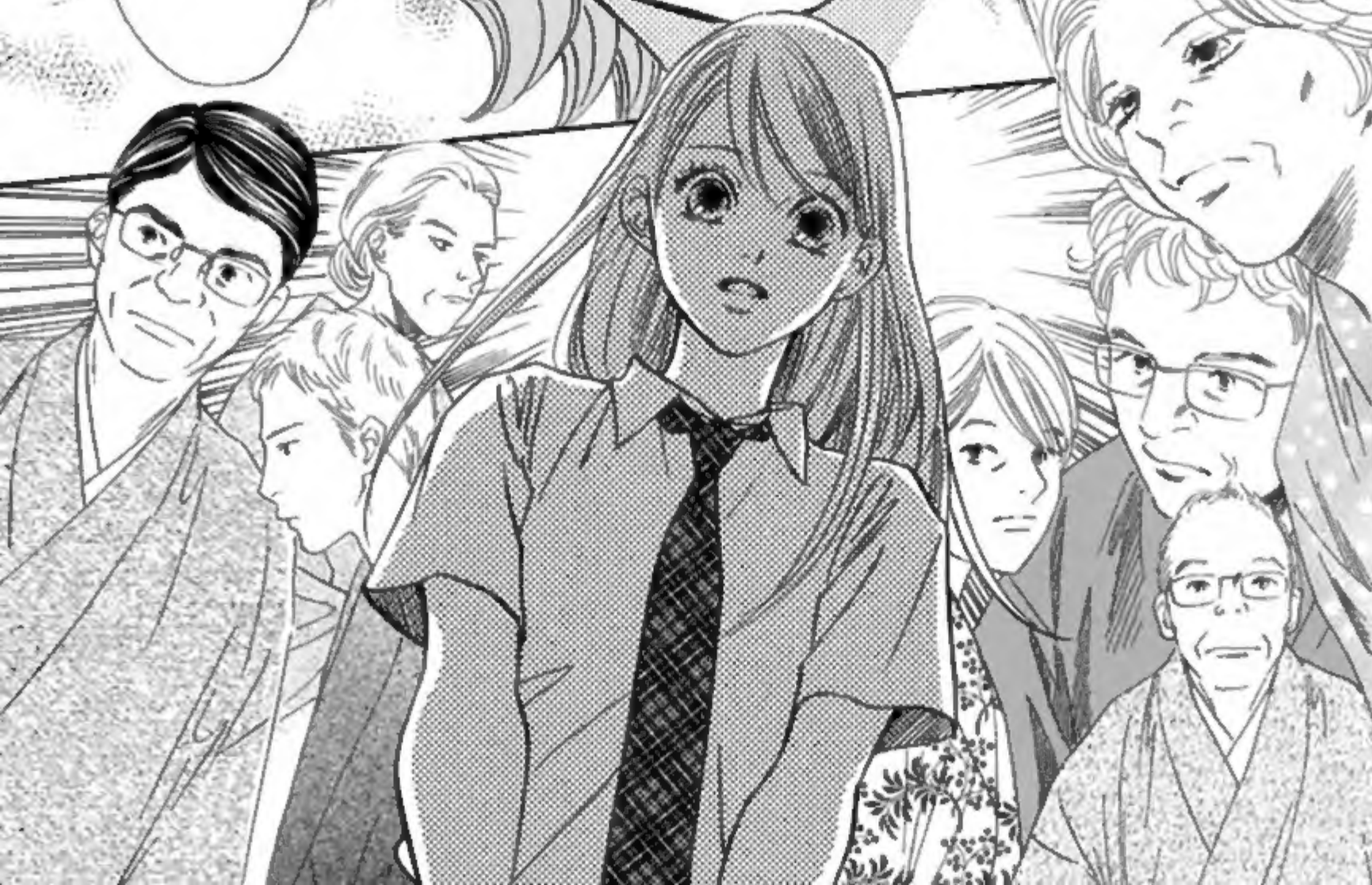
BUT  
I ALSO

MADE  
EFFORT,  
SO IT'S  
PARTLY  
DUE TO THAT,  
TOO.

COULD  
YOU  
PLEASE  
ELABORATE  
ON  
THAT?

I'M  
PROBABLY  
THE ONLY  
DEDICATED  
COLLECTOR

WHO HAS  
THE RECORDINGS OF  
THE HYAKUNIN ISSHU  
READ BY ALL  
THE 7 PROFESSIONAL  
READERS.





THAT MEANS HE EVEN HAS READING SAMPLES BY KUZURYOU YUKO-SAN, THE READER WHO HASN'T READ IN TOURNAMENTS FOR A WHILE NOW?!

ALL THE 7 READERS ...

TALK ABOUT SUPER RARE.



THAT IS WHY IT IS POSSIBLE FOR PLAYERS TO BE SO FAST AFTER HEARING JUST A FEW SYLLABLES.

LET'S PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION FOR OUR VIEWERS. IN COMPETITIVE KARUTA, EACH CARD HAS A SO-CALLED DECISIVE SYLLABLE, UNIQUELY DEFINING IT, AND BY LISTENING TO THOSE SYLLABLE, YOU CAN IDENTIFY WHAT CARD IS BEING READ.

YES.

ONLY THE FIRST LINE OF THE SECOND VERSE?

AH, AND HERE

SUOH-SAN'S TREMENDOUS GENIUS AT ITS BEST.

I SEE. THAT EXPLAINS WHY, EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE A STRONG CONNECTION WITH SOUND, YOU CANNOT CONNECT WITH THE CARDS.

SHINOBU-CHAN.

WE HAVE CONDUCTED THE SAME SET OF TESTS WITH WAKAMIYA-SAN, TOO.

SHE MAKES MEAN LOOK GOOD.

THE YOUNG MISS IS SO PRETTY EVEN ON CLOSEUPS.

BE QUIET!

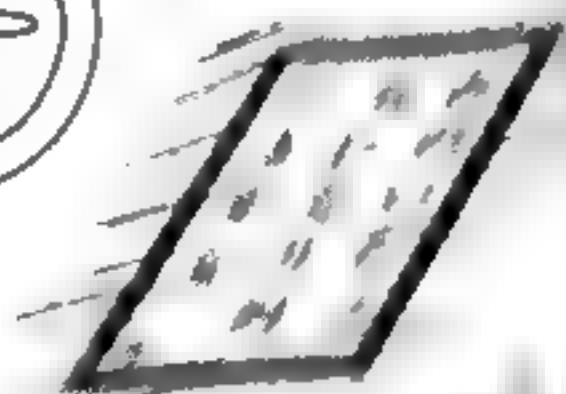


NEXT, WE USED  
A SPECIAL DEVICE  
IN AN EXPERIMENT  
DESIGNED TO  
TRACE HER LINE  
OF SIGHT.

EH?  
REALLY?

AS A RESULT,  
WE HAVE CONCLUDED  
THAT HER HEARING  
IS ON THE LEVEL  
OF YOUR AVERAGE  
PERSON.

APPAR-  
ENTLY



HER  
FOCAL  
POINT  
DIDN'T  
MOVE?

HUH?  
HOW  
COULD  
IT BE?





ONLY  
ONE CARD  
AT A TIME -  
THE CORRECT  
ONE

BUT DE-  
MONSTRATED  
SURGICAL  
PRECISION  
AND SPEED  
WHEN  
SWEEPING

THE RESULT  
WAS THAT  
SHE NEVER ONCE  
FOCUSED HER  
GAZE ON THE  
CARD THAT WAS  
BEING READ,



VERY  
DIFFERENT  
FROM THAT  
OF THE  
MEIJIN.

THE SECRET  
BEHIND  
THE QUEEN'S  
STRENGTH  
TURNED OUT  
TO BE



THAT  
COORDINATION  
BETWEEN HER  
EYES AND  
HAND  
MOVEMENTS  
IS NOTHING  
TO SNEEZE  
AT.

WHAT  
DOES  
THAT  
MEAN?

THAT EVEN  
THOUGH  
SHE WASN'T  
EXACTLY  
LOOKING,  
HER EYESIGHT  
WAS VERY  
GOOD.

A TESTAMENT  
TO HER  
REFLEXES  
AND  
ATHLETIC  
ABILITY,  
I GUESS.



DURING  
THAT  
GAME,  
I  
THOUGHT

Thank  
you  
for the  
meal



SHE  
JUST KNOWS  
THE CARDS  
AND THEIR  
POSITIONS  
WITHOUT  
HAVING TO  
LOOK.

LIKE WHEN  
PIANISTS ARE  
ABLE TO PLAY  
THE PIANO  
EVEN WITH  
THEIR EYES  
CLOSED.

TO BE  
THAT  
GOOD,

SHE HAS  
TO HAVE  
FULL  
CONTROL  
OVER HER  
BODY.

WHICH IS  
IMPOSSIBLE  
WITHOUT  
TONS OF  
PRACTICE.

WAKAMIYA  
SAN,

I ALWAYS  
LOOK FORWARD  
TO HAVING MATCHES  
AGAINST VARIOUS  
PLAYERS FROM  
ALL ACROSS  
THE COUNTRY  
THOUGH.

TRANSLATION:

"THERE'S  
NO WAY  
THOSE  
LOSERS  
CAN EVER  
BEAT ME!"

TRANSLATION:

"THERE'S NO ONE  
STRONGER  
THAN ME,  
THEY ALL ARE  
JUST TOTALLY  
USELESS  
AS PRACTICE  
PARTNERS."

I STILL HAVE  
A LOT TO LEARN,  
AND I WOULDN'T  
WANT TO CAUSE  
TROUBLE TO OTHER  
PLAYERS.

SO  
PRACTICING  
ALONE  
SUITS ME  
BEST.

I HEARD  
THAT YOU  
PREFER  
PRACTICING  
ALONE.

DO YOU  
NOT FEEL  
LONELY?



I DON'T  
GET WHAT  
HE'S TRYING  
TO SAY  
BY ALL  
THAT!

"Identifying  
the sounds of  
a decisive syllable  
is an encounter  
with the  
emotionally  
stimulating  
unknown."

"You  
infiltrate  
the reader's  
heart and  
you become  
one with  
them."

"Conveying  
emotions  
with your  
eyes is  
important."

"The card  
that your  
opponent  
sends you  
is a letter  
from them."

"Feel free to  
blame your  
adversary for  
the faults and  
double faults  
you commit!  
Only, do it inside  
your heart."

OW!

WHAT  
...

"YOU ARE  
WELCOME  
ANY TIME,  
DON'T  
FORGET."







I SEE  
THE  
CARDS

GODS  
...

THEY ALL  
ARE WILFUL  
BUT SO  
CUTE!

AS LITTLE  
HUMAN-  
SHAPED  
GODS  
ABOUT  
THIS TALL.

IN MY  
CASE,

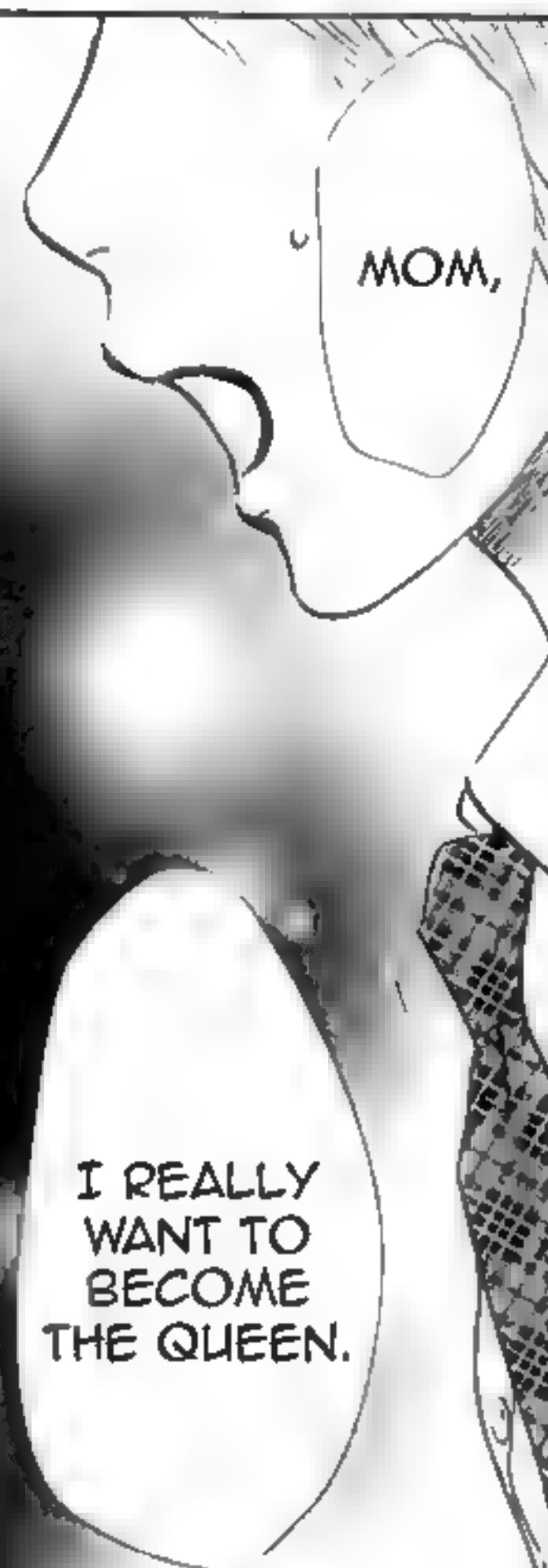


IT IS MY  
DREAM

TO  
ALWAYS  
LIVE

ALONG-  
SIDE  
THESE  
LITTLE  
ONES...

THESE  
CARDS.





**"BE SURE  
TO MAKE  
GOOD**

**I WILL  
INVEST  
EFFORT  
INTO  
STUDYING,  
TOO.**

**I WILL  
WORK HARD,  
I SWEAR.**

**ON  
YOUR  
PROMISE  
THIS  
TIME."**

**SO I WILL  
DO MY BEST  
AT BOTH!**

**BUT I ALSO  
WANT TO  
PLAY IN  
THE QUEEN  
MATCH!**

FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO BALANCE BOTH.

WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO RETIRE NOW?

WAIT.

CHITOSE,

GOOD GRACIOUS, DIDN'T I ASK YOU WHAT GOOD WOULD BECOMING THE QUEEN DO FOR YOU?

HUSH, NOW.

YOU, TOO, CHIHAYA...

WHO DO YOU WANT ME TO BECOME?

THEN MOM,

LIKE, YOU JUST WANT ME TO BE HAPPY, SOMETHING LIKE THAT, RIGHT?

ふんわり

ALL YOU HAVE IS JUST SOME, YOU KNOW, VAGUE IDEA.

I MEAN, DO YOU WANT ME TO BECOME A NURSE? OR, SAY, A BOOK-SHOP KEEPER?

THAT'S NOT IT, RIGHT? BECAUSE IT'S NOT LIKE YOU HAVE SOMETHING CONCRETE IN MIND, IS IT?

WHAT  
I WANT  
FOR MY  
CHILDREN  
IS...

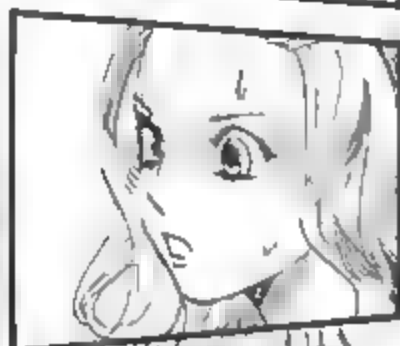
WRONG.

...TO OBTAIN  
HAPPINESS  
WITH AS HIGH  
PROBABILITY  
AS POSSIBLE!

AND YET...  
WHY DO  
BOTH OF MY  
DAUGHTERS

I'M NOT  
ASKING MUCH,  
THIS UNSOPHI-  
STICATED  
WISH IS ALL  
I EVER  
WANTED.

CHOOSE  
SUCH  
UNSTABLE  
PATHS IN LIFE  
THAT CAN'T  
PROVIDE ANY  
ASSURANCE  
OF THEIR  
FUTURE...?



AW, GOSH,  
YOU'RE  
MAKING ME  
BLUSH!

MA'AM.

PLEASE  
LET ME,  
THIS IS  
THE LEAST  
I CAN DO

TO SHOW  
MY GRATITUDE  
FOR OUR  
DELICIOUS  
OYAKODON.

UH?

**YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO DO  
THE DISHES.**

MASHIMA-  
KUN,  
WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING?

BUT THE  
DOWNSIDE IS  
THAT THERE  
IS A PEAK  
PERIOD FOR  
THAT KIND OF  
HEARING  
ABILITY.

AND FOR  
CHIHAYA,  
SUCH A PEAK  
IS PROBABLY  
NOW.

EH?

MEIJIN'S?  
THAT  
YOUNG  
MAN'S?

IT  
CAN'T  
BE...

CHIHAYA'S  
HEARING IS  
NEARLY AS  
GOOD AS  
MEIJIN  
SHOU'S.

SOME DAY,  
HER OUT-  
STANDING  
HEARING  
WILL  
INEVITABLY  
DECLINE...



THANK  
YOU,  
AND  
GOOD  
BYE.

EH?!  
TAICHI,  
YOU'RE JUST  
GOING TO UP  
AND LEAVE  
AFTER WHAT  
YOU'VE JUST  
SAID?!

WELL,  
IT'S LATE,  
SO I  
SHOULD  
GO.

THANK  
YOU FOR  
YOUR  
HOSPI-  
TALITY.



"WHAT  
I WANT FOR  
MY CHILDREN  
IS...



CHIHAYA.

...TO OBTAIN  
HAPPINESS  
WITH AS HIGH  
PROBABILITY  
AS POSSIBLE  
..."



YOU  
SURE  
YOU CAN  
DO IT?

TO  
BALANCE  
BOTH,  
I MEAN...



"SOME DAY,  
HER  
OUTSTANDING  
HEARING  
WILL  
INEVITABLY  
DECLINE..."



THAT YOUR  
FAILING EXAMS  
AND HAVING  
TO WAIT A YEAR  
WILL PUT US  
IN A FINANCIAL  
BIND?

YOU DO  
UNDER-  
STAND



THE WORDS  
THAT NEED  
TO BE SAID  
RIGHT NOW!

I...

I  
KNOW  
GOOD  
WORDS.



I WILL  
DO MY  
BEST AT  
BOTH!!!

WE'RE  
ASKING YOU  
JUST HOW  
ARE YOU  
GOING TO---

I WILL  
DO IT!  
I WILL  
BALANCE  
BOTH!

?  
WHAT  
WORDS?

THERE ARE  
4 STEPS TO  
GETTING  
THINGS DONE.

KOMANO-  
SENSEI

Umm...

Aw

JUST  
SHOUTING  
MY RESOLVE  
WON'T DO  
IT.

I'LL SPLIT  
MY TIME  
EQUALLY  
BETWEEN  
STUDYING  
AND  
KARUTA.

#2  
SET UP  
EFFECTIVE  
TIME  
MANAGE-  
MENT

AT THE NEXT  
MOCK EXAM  
I'LL DETERMINE  
WHICH COLLEGES  
I HAVE A 60%  
OR BETTER  
CHANCE OF  
GETTING INTO.

#1  
DEFINE  
YOUR  
GOAL

Simply poring over  
something for one  
long period of time  
is pointless

20 new  
English words  
every day

FIND MY  
MISTAKES  
AND  
CORRECT  
THEM EVERY  
DAY.

I WILL HAVE  
THE S-  
SENSEIS...

#3  
HAVE  
A THIRD  
PARTY TO  
POINT OUT  
WHAT YOU  
NEED TO  
WORK ON

I WILL MAKE  
TRIPS TO  
OTHER KARUTA  
SOCIETIES  
TO TRAIN.

#4  
STEP OUT  
OF YOUR  
COMFORT  
ZONE

I DIDN'T  
DO  
ANYTHING.

THANK  
YOU!

TAICHI!

31

THANK  
YOU SO  
MUCH,  
TAICHI.

THANK  
YOU.

SOME DAY,  
MY  
OUTSTANDING  
HEARING  
WILL  
INEVITABLY  
DECLINE.



I WILL  
PUT  
MY BEST  
EFFORT

TO BE ABLE  
TO POUR MY  
EVERYTHING  
INTO DOING  
WHAT I WANT  
TO DO,

INTO  
DOING  
WHAT  
I DON'T  
WANT  
TO DO.

TDX Release

Chihayafuru

SPECIAL THANKS

Redrawing:

Nazo no Seibutsu